

REMARKS

With entry of this amendment, Claims 8-20 are pending. Claims 1-7 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 8-20 have been amended. Support for the amendments to Claim 8 can be found on page 3, line 1. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Election/Restriction

Applicant hereby affirms the provisional election with traverse, made in a telephone call on Friday, August 28, 2002, of Group II, Claims 8-20 drawn to a device for treating soiled fabric, classified in class 8, subclass 137.

Objection

Claims 9-20 are objected to for informalities in that the claims end with "blends and combinations". As the Examiner suggested, these claims have been amended to read "blends and combinations thereof." Furthermore, the misspellings in Claim 15 have been corrected. The Examiner is requested to withdraw this objection.

35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd Paragraph

Claim 16 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph in that the limitation "wherein a flat outlet" has insufficient antecedent basis. Applicant has amended Claim 16 to "further comprise a flat outlet", thereby providing sufficient antecedent basis. The Examiner is requested to withdraw this rejection.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 8-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reinwald *et al.*, (US 4,255, 148). Applicant traverses this rejection.

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The Office Action states that "Reinwald *et al.* teach an apparatus for carrying out the machine washing of solid textiles or dishes including a means for circulating the wash water through a vessel containing the cation exchange agent. . . Specifically, in figure VI, Reinwald *et al.* teach an apparatus which is a modified home laundry washing machine." Applicant respectfully asserts that the home laundry washing machine described in Reinwald *et al.* does not teach or suggest a portable cleaning apparatus. Reinwald discloses a process and apparatus for rapidly decreasing the hardness of water during a washing cycle without depositing insoluble granular material in the clothes and without interfering with the action of detergents. (Column 2, lines 41-49). It does not teach or suggest that the device used in the process is portable. (See Specification, page 6, lines 10-12, page 11, lines 8-15 and page 12 lines 1-2). The Examiner is requested to withdraw this rejection.

MARKED COPY OF AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Claims:

8. (Amended) A portable device for treating soiled fabric, comprising
 - a) at least one chamber;
 - b) wherein at least one chamber is capable of containing a cleaning solution; and wherein at least one chamber has a surface for receiving fabric.
9. (Amended) The device of Claim 8, wherein the at least one chamber is made of metallic materials, synthetic materials, natural materials, blends and combinations thereof.
10. (Amended) The device of Claim 8, wherein the cleaning solution comprises at least one from the group comprising organic solvents, surfactants, detergents, enzymes, bleaches, fabric brighteners, blends and combinations thereof.
11. (Amended) The device of claim 10, wherein the solvent is selected from alcohols, acetone, ether, benzene, toluene, THF, petroleum spirit, blends and combinations thereof.
12. (Amended) The device of claim 10, wherein the surfactant is selected from anionic surfactants, cationic surfactants, non-ionic surfactants, blends, and combinations thereof.
13. (Amended) The device of claim 10, wherein the surfactant is selected from synthetic surfactants, natural surfactants, combinations, and blends thereof.

14. (Amended) The device of claim 10, wherein the enzyme is selected from proteinases, aminopeptidases, carboxypeptidases, lipases, Dnases, Rnases, blends and combinations thereof.
15. (Amended) The device of claim 10, wherein the bleach is selected from chlorinated [coupounds, peroxides,] compounds, peroxides, reducing agents, color brighteners, blends and combinations thereof.
16. (Amended) The device of claim 8, wherein the [a flat outlet of] at least one chamber further comprises a flat outlet with [has] a minimum area of 0.03 cm².
17. (Amended) A portable device for treating soiled fabric, comprising
 - a) a chamber containing a cleaning solution; and
 - b) an absorbent-containing absorbing material.
18. (Amended) The device of claim 17, wherein the chamber is made of metallic materials, synthetic materials, natural materials, blends and combinations thereof.
19. (Amended) The device of Claim 17, wherein the absorbent material is made of metallic materials, synthetic materials, natural materials, blends and combinations thereof.
20. (Amended) The device of Claim 17, wherein the cleaning solution comprises at least one from the group comprising organic solvents, surfactants, detergents, enzymes, bleaches, fabric brighteners, blends and combinations thereof.

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Applicant respectfully submits that this is a complete response to the Office Action dated September 11, 2002 and that Claims 8-20 are patentable. Early and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes there are other issues that can be resolved by telephone interview, or that there are any informalities remaining in the application which may be corrected by Examiner's Amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned attorney at (404) 815-6500 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KILPATRICK STOCKTON, LLP



By Janina A. Malone
Reg. No. 47,768

KILPATRICK STOCKTON, LLP
1100 Peachtree St.
Suite 2800
Atlanta, GA 30309-4530
Phone: (404) 815-6500
Fax: (404) 815-6555
Atty Docket: 12980-0101 (44148-251210)